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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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## CHARTER REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey  
CHAIR

### HEARING NOTES

*LO25-0038*  
*Charter Review*

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**Hearing Date:** 2/18/2026  
**Hearing Start Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Hearing End Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex  
**Total Estimated Attendance:** 10

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

- **Chair** Ryan Dorsey
  - Odette Ramos
  - Jermaine Jones
  - **Vice Chair** John Bullock
  - Zac Blanchard
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### ***MAJOR SPEAKERS***

*(This is NOT an attendance record.)*

- Committee members
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### ***NOTES***

- Chair Dorsey welcomed to committee and discussed the documents before the committee
  - Today's meeting will involve discussions of mayoral veto provisions and the city budget
  - Also reemphasized a listening session on 2/26 at the Enoch Pratt Herring Run branch
- Staff identified a number of new provisions including:
  - Protecting the City water and sewer systems as public assets;
  - Altering the supplemental appropriations process; and,
  - Expanding the Council's role in the budget process
- Adam Golden – a resident and public defender (here in individual capacity) published a report on potential revisions to charter
  - Council had a successful 2025 but the council was limited by its limited role in the budget process
  - Recommendations include
    - Abolishing the board of estimates
    - Extending the timeline
    - Dedicated budget staff

- The Chair brought up the Inspector General's office
  - There have been a number of concerning developments related to the IG's office
    - A lack of oversight relative to responsible city interests
    - There have been reports outside the scope of what is appropriate for an IG to investigate
      - Comments made within it were of a character and quality that were unprofessional
    - Worth considering the make up of the Inspector General Board
- The Chair also brought up the placement of the finance department as part of the executive branch
  - Potentially one centralized independent budgetary office within the comptroller
- Councilman Blanchard also presented a potential amendment to remove the necessity of BOE approval for purchase/redemption of ground rent and land disposition agreements below certain amounts
- The Chair began the discussion of draft amendments to the Mayoral Veto provisions and Budget
  - Article IV
    - The language would alter the mayoral veto provision to limit the timing of a veto and provide the clarify the council's ability to override a veto
    - And simplifies more complex provisions with negligible effects
    - One significant change would limit the mayors ability to veto appropriations
      - Any veto must come within three days of the passage of the budget and the Charter would have until the end of the fiscal year to override the veto
    - Councilwoman Ramos suggests that BBMR struggles to get a budget by April 15 because it must be presented to the Board of Estimates
      - Many of these decisions come down to whether we are getting rid of the BOE or not
    - Regardless, we want the budget sooner
    - Do we have the capacity to abolish the BOE on a short timeline
      - Perhaps just the makeup in the interim would be a step in the right direction
  - Article VI
    - Incredibly short relative to what is in the article currently
    - The current article leaves little room elsewhere for the formulation of the city's fiscal policy
      - Could be better expressed through more pointed delineations of authority
    - Would clarify that the legislative branch has some role in how the public's will is carried out
  - Budget Article
    - The remaining sections of current Article VI is all related to the budget process
    - The contents of which touch on all branches of government and warrants an article all its own
    - There is currently no statement about procurement in the draft but there may need to be a small statement on the topic
    - There are minor changes from the current language in the BOE article
    - The committee discussed current provisions requiring the creation of a contingent fund
      - Currently put forth as an alternative to the supplemental process

- The committee has previously discussed close out supplementals
  - Could this fund be altered to remove the limit of \$1,000,000 and be used to cover what is now being handled by supplemental appropriations
  - CM Blanchard suggested that he liked this idea
  - CM Ramos remarked that the supplemental process does allow for transparency but the current retroactive nature is a problem
  - Could it be reworked to reflect a percentage of the budget that grows with the rest of the budget
    - This should be used to carry out the intent of the ordinance of estimates
  - CM Ramos reiterated that we still need to have a conversation about the BOE before delving into the budget article
    - One change would permit the creation of non-lapsing funds by ordinance
    - DLR expressed tepid concern over removing the brakes from special funds but empowering the entity that would then impact the budget
      - What limits then exist
    - Another provision would allow the council to condition the release of certain funds on a certain action
      - CM Jones remarked that the existence of this authority could foster a level of collaboration that would be helpful
- The Board of Estimates
  - CM Blanchard remarked that the spelling out of what the BOE would do under this draft does be the question – why is the board of estimates submitting the budget to the Council
  - CM Ramos – the operating and capital budget should be separated
  - The Chair noted that DLR is concerned about removing the Board of estimates because it would be a major undertaking
    - There are over 400 references to the Board of Estimates or “the Board” in the Charter and Code that would need to be addressed
  - The Board of Estimates existence as an issue may be more feasible for 2028
    - But the 2028 election may have different issues at play
  - DLR noted that the City of New York created a BOE in 1898, like Baltimore
    - Changing this branch is changing our form of government
    - The interim proposal can work
  - CM Blanchard remarked that there are two routes
    - Identify burdensome processes that encumber the council’s role in the budget process, or
    - Reconsideration broadly via a committee of the whole
      - A discussion in 2028 will have other considerations due to the nature of campaigns
  - CM Ramos recognizes the real time constraints
  - The Chair noted that there are references in article II (which is set by the state) to the Board of Estimates
    - There are also other places in state law that refer to the BOE
  - CM Jones suggested that we should not be looking at Charter amendments every two years

- Law Department remarked that an amendment could not be approved if there were still references to BOE in Article II
- The Chair notes that the Board could continue to exist in a fashion that only does what is required under state law
  - This committee needs to envision something better
- DLR requested clarity on the purpose of the document we reviewed today
  - The Chair remarked that it was to have the discussion today
  - The intent was to incorporate a number of topics brought up during previous meetings
    - Special funds
    - Provide the city council additional time to review a budget
    - Address concerns related to veto and veto override timing
      - Specific to the budget
      - And other ordinances
    - Conditional budgetary authority
    - Removal of restrictive existing provisions on BOE procurement authority
    - And the erasure of other superfluous BOE material
    - And move the Budget out of the BOE article
- Reasonable steps that can be taken by 2026
  - Those provisions presented this evening
  - Minor privileges via the franchises article
  - Changes to the biennial audits commission
- The BOE and Article VII are big
- We need to formulate a broader vision
- Should the BOE requirement to hold taxpayer night be removed
- The Chair proposed that the committee request DLR to begin with drafting the Budget, BOE, Mayoral veto revisions as discussed tonight
  - CM Ramos remarked that it could include the capital budget
  - And introduce procurement to code
- Then, in order of priority
  - Article VIII – Franchises, in accordance with the document discussed previously to remove minor privileges and obsolete language
  - Repealing biennial audits from charter with intention to remove to code
- DLR asked whether it should be discrete items or one package
  - There was debate among the members
- The committee voted to request DLR commence in its drafting of the topics listed above by voice vote

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**Hearing Packet in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A  
**Attendance Sheet in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A  
**Vote Record in bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A  
**Agency reports read?** -----  YES  NO  N/A  
**Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded?** -----  YES  NO  N/A  
**Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file?** -----  YES  NO  N/A

**Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----  YES  NO  N/A**

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Notes by: Ethan Navarre  
Notes Date: 2/18/2026

Direct Inquiries to: [Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov)

Suggested Charter Amendment, Blanchard, 18 FEB 2026

**Article VI — Board of Estimates**

**§11 — Contracts and Expenditures**

**(h) Limited Real Estate Transaction Exemptions**

**(1) Ground Rent Acquisitions**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the purchase or redemption of a ground rent interest by or on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall not require prior approval of the Board of Estimates, provided that the acquisition price for any individual ground rent does not exceed \$25,000;

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**(2) Land Disposition Agreements Under \$100,000**

A Land Disposition Agreement (“LDA”) conveying or agreeing to convey City-owned real property shall be exempt from prior Board of Estimates approval where the fair market value or disposition price of the property interest conveyed does not exceed \$100,000;

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**This is a working document.**

Section 1.

**Article IV  
Mayor**

**§ 5. Approval or veto of legislation.**

**(a) Delivery to Mayor; Approval.**

All ordinances or resolutions duly passed by the City Council, after being properly certified by the President of the City Council as having been so passed, shall be delivered by the Clerk of the Council to the Mayor for approval. The date of delivery shall be noted on the ordinances or resolutions and, when approved by the Mayor, they shall become ordinances or resolutions of the City.

**(b) Veto; Return to Council.**

**(1) TIMING OF DELIVERY OF VETO**

**(I) IN GENERAL**

If the Mayor does not approve of an ordinance or resolution passed by the City Council, the Mayor shall return it with written objections to the City Council within **TWO [three actual regular]** meetings, not more than one of which shall occur in any one calendar week, of the City Council after the delivery of the ordinance or resolution to the Mayor.

**(II) EXCEPTION FOR ITEMS OF APPROPRIATION**

**A VETO OF ITEMS OF APPROPRIATION SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE COUNCIL WITHIN THREE CALENDAR DAYS.**

(2) On receipt, the Mayor's objections shall be read promptly to the Council and entered on its Journal. The Council may proceed to reconsider and vote on the ordinance or **RESOLUTION AT ANY TIME WITHIN 21 DAYS.** [resolution:

(i) after 5 calendar days from when the Mayor's objections have been read to the Council; and

(ii) either:

1 (A) within 20 calendar days from when the Mayor's objections have  
2 been read to the Council; or

3 (B) if no regular meeting is held during that 20-day period, at the first  
4 regular meeting that is scheduled after that 20-day period.]

5 (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of this subsection, no vetoed ordinance or  
6 resolution may be reconsidered by a City Council that has been newly-elected and  
7 sworn since the passage of the vetoed ordinance or resolution.

8 (4) If the ordinance or resolution, after reconsideration, is again passed by the City  
9 Council by a vote of two-thirds of its members, it becomes an ordinance or  
10 resolution of the City. In these cases, after the reconsideration, the votes on the  
11 question of the passage of the ordinance or resolution over the veto of the Mayor  
12 shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and  
13 against passage of the ordinance or resolution over the veto of the Mayor shall be  
14 entered on the Journal of the City Council.

15 **(c) No action by Mayor.**

16 If an ordinance or resolution duly passed by the City Council shall not be returned by the  
17 Mayor to the City Council within **TWO [three actual regular]** meetings, no more than one of  
18 which shall occur in any one calendar week, after it shall have been delivered to the Mayor,  
19 it shall become an ordinance or resolution of the City in the same manner as if the Mayor  
20 had approved it, unless the City Council by an adjournment sine die, or for a period  
21 exceeding one month, shall prevent its return, in which case it shall not be law.

22 **(d) Items of appropriation.**

23 If an ordinance or resolution duly passed by the City Council shall embrace different items  
24 of appropriation, the Mayor may approve the provisions thereof relating to one or more  
25 items of appropriation and disapprove the others, and in such case those the Mayor shall  
26 approve shall become effective and those which the Mayor shall not approve shall be  
27 reconsidered by the City Council, and shall become effective if again passed over the veto  
28 of the Mayor by the vote as above prescribed for the passage over the veto of the Mayor. [of  
29 entire ordinances or resolutions. The procedures governing the Mayor's veto of an item of  
30 appropriation and the Council's reconsideration of that item shall be the same as those  
31 in [this section](#) that govern the passage, veto, reconsideration and override of ordinances  
32 and resolutions.]

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1 **Article VI**  
2 **Board of Estimates**

3 **§ 1. Establishment and organization.**

4 **(a) In general.**

5 There shall be a Board of Estimates composed of the Mayor, President of the City Council,  
6 Comptroller, City Solicitor, and Director of Public Works, none of whom shall receive any  
7 additional salary as members of the Board.

8 The President of the City Council shall be President of the Board, and one of the members  
9 shall act as Secretary.

10 The Board may employ such employees as may be necessary to discharge its duties; their  
11 number and compensation shall be fixed in the Ordinance of Estimates.

12 **(b) Meetings.**

13 The first meeting of the Board in every year shall be called by notice from the Mayor or  
14 President of the City Council personally served upon members of the Board. Subsequent  
15 meetings shall be called as the Board may direct.

16 **(c) Representatives.**

17 If a member is unable to attend a Board meeting, that member's representative, as  
18 designated in the Charter, may attend and exercise the powers of the member. The Mayor  
19 may designate a municipal officer or member of the Mayor's personal staff to represent the  
20 Mayor and exercise the Mayor's power at Board meetings in the Mayor's absence.

21

22 **§ 2. Powers and duties.**

23 [The Board of Estimates shall formulate and execute the fiscal policy of the City to the  
24 extent, and in the manner provided for, in the Charter. To exercise its powers and perform  
25 its duties, the Board may promulgate rules and regulations and summon before it the  
26 heads of departments, bureaus or divisions, municipal officers, and members of  
27 commissions and boards.]

28 A. THE BOARD SHALL:

- 29 1. SUBMIT TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE ANNUAL PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF  
30 ESTIMATES  
31 2. AWARD CONTRACTS AND SUPERVISE ALL PURCHASING BY THE CITY



1 **No later than April 15 of each year, the** Board of Estimates shall submit to the City Council  
2 the proposed Ordinance of Estimates for the next fiscal year. [at least forty-five days before  
3 the beginning of that fiscal year.]

4 **(d) Adoption by Council.**

5 [The City Council shall have at least forty days after receipt of the Board's proposed  
6 Ordinance of Estimates to enact an Ordinance of Estimates.] The City Council shall adopt  
7 an Ordinance of Estimates at least five days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year to  
8 which it is applicable. [if the Board of Estimates submits its proposed Ordinance of  
9 Estimates within the period prescribed by Section 3(c).]

10

11 **§ 4. Assistance from Finance Director and Planning Commission.**

12 To assist the Board of Estimates in the preparation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates:

13 **(a) Recommendations on agency estimates.**

14 The Director of Finance shall submit for the consideration of the Board a recommended  
15 operating budget, which shall include the estimates submitted by the municipal agencies  
16 for the next fiscal year, the recommendations of the Director of Finance thereon, and all  
17 other estimates for appropriations to be made in the next fiscal year, other than for capital  
18 improvements; provided, however, the estimates for the Fire Department shall include  
19 such amounts, if any, as may be determined by a final decision of a board of arbitration  
20 convened to arbitrate unresolved negotiations between the City and the certified employee  
21 organizations representing the fire fighters and fire officers, as prescribed by  
22 existing [Section 53 of Article VII](#).

23 **(b) Recommendations on capital budget, etc.**

24 The Planning Commission shall submit for the consideration of the Board a recommended  
25 capital budget, a recommended long-range capital improvement program, and a report on  
26 both. The Director and Board of Finance shall review the recommended capital budget and  
27 program, and make a report and recommendations about both to the Board of Estimates.

28

29 **§ 5. Preparation of proposed Ordinance of Estimates.**

30 **(a) Contents.**

1 After receiving the recommendations of the Department of Finance and the Planning  
2 Commission, the Board shall prepare its proposed Ordinance of Estimates, which shall  
3 consist of:

4 (1) an operating budget: estimates for the next fiscal year of the appropriations needed for  
5 the operation of each municipal agency and for all other purposes, other than for capital  
6 improvements. These estimates shall state the amounts needed by every municipal agency  
7 for each particular program, purpose, activity, or project and the source of funds, if other  
8 than general funds, for each.

9 (2) a capital budget: estimates of the amounts to be appropriated to each municipal  
10 agency for capital improvements in the next fiscal year. The capital budget proposed by the  
11 Board also shall include the projects that the Board includes in the first year of its long-  
12 range capital improvement program and the source of funds for all capital improvements.  
13 However, no capital project shall be included in the capital budget portion of the proposed  
14 Ordinance of Estimates submitted by the Board of Estimates to the City Council unless the  
15 Board has received and considered the reports and recommendations of the Planning  
16 Commission, the Director of Finance, and the Board of Finance with regard to such capital  
17 project. The Board of Estimates may establish additional procedures for the development  
18 of a long-range capital improvement program and a capital budget.

19 **(b) Contingent fund.**

20 The Board may include annually in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates a sum up to **one**  
21 **million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) {Is this too low?}** of the General Fund appropriations to be  
22 used during the next fiscal year as a contingent fund in case of an emergency or necessity  
23 for the expenditure of money in excess of or other than the appropriations regularly passed  
24 for any municipal agency.

25 At least one week before it approves a contingent fund expenditure, the Board shall report  
26 to the City Council the reasons for the expenditure. **{Does this actually happen?}**

27

28 **§ 6. Adoption of proposed Ordinance of Estimates.**

29 **(a) Adoption, submission, and publication.**

30 After the public notice and hearings prescribed by Section **3(b)**, the Board shall adopt a  
31 proposed Ordinance of Estimates by a majority vote of all the members. The Board shall  
32 deliver the proposed Ordinance of Estimates to the President of the City Council and  
33 contemporaneously publish a copy of the proposed ordinance in two daily newspapers in  
34 Baltimore City.

1 (b) **Accompanying materials.**

2 The proposed Ordinance of Estimates that the Board submits to the City Council shall be  
3 accompanied by the following materials:

4 (1) a breakdown of the amounts stated for each program, purpose, activity, or project of  
5 each municipal agency in the proposed operating budget by standard categories of  
6 expenditure, for

7 (a) personal services,

8 (b) materials, supplies, and equipment,

9 (c) debt service, and

10 (d) such other categories as the Board of Estimates may deem advisable.

11 The personal services category shall include the compensation of every officer and  
12 salaried employee of the City; provided, however, that the salaries for employees in the  
13 same classification who have a uniform salary or salary range may be combined into a  
14 single entry, which shall indicate the number of such employees, their aggregate salaries,  
15 and the name or title of the classification.

16 (2) a comparison by standard categories of expenditures of the appropriations contained in  
17 the proposed operating budget with

18 (a) the amounts requested by the municipal agencies in their budget submissions

19 (b) the amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year and

20 (c) the amounts expended in the prior fiscal year;

21 (3) detailed information about the sources of funds to meet the aggregate total of the  
22 appropriations contained in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates;

23 (4) the long-range capital improvement program adopted by the Board and for each capital  
24 project included in the capital budget, the following:

25 a brief description and location,

26 the total estimated cost,

27 the appropriations authorized to date,

28 the appropriations proposed for the next fiscal year,

29 the appropriations required thereafter to complete the project, and

- 1 the estimated additional annual maintenance and operation cost.
- 2 (5) a statement setting out:
- 3 (a) the revenues which the City can reasonably expect to receive in the next fiscal year from  
4 all existing sources of revenue at existing rates other than the full rate property tax but  
5 including amounts believed to be collectible from taxes for prior years and including an  
6 estimate of the surplus expected at the end of the current fiscal year;
- 7 (b) the difference between the revenues expected under (a) above and the total amount of  
8 appropriations provided in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates;
- 9 (c) the estimated taxable basis for the next ensuing fiscal year for the levy of full rate  
10 property taxes;
- 11 (d) the rate for the levy of full rate property taxes which, given the revenues expected under  
12 (a) above, the total appropriations in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates, and the taxable  
13 basis, will be necessary to raise sufficient total revenues to cover total anticipated  
14 expenditures;
- 15 (e) new sources of revenue or new rates on existing sources of revenue, and the amounts  
16 which can reasonably be expected from each of them, which the Board of Estimates  
17 believes should be adopted for the next fiscal year; also the rate for the levy of full rate  
18 property taxes which, in view of such new sources of revenue or new rates on existing  
19 sources of revenue, will be necessary to bring total expected revenues for the next fiscal  
20 year into balance with total anticipated expenditures for the year;
- 21 (6) a message from the Mayor explaining the major emphasis and objectives of the City's  
22 budget for the next fiscal year;
- 23 (7) such other information as the Board of Estimates may deem advisable.

24

25 **§ 7. Enactment of Ordinance of Estimates.**

26 (a) **Introduction; authorized cuts.**

27 (1) On receipt of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates and the accompanying materials,  
28 the President of the City Council shall promptly cause it to be introduced in the City  
29 Council, and the Council shall hold public hearings on the proposed Ordinance of  
30 Estimates.

31 (2) By a majority vote of its members, the City Council may reduce or eliminate any of the  
32 amounts in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates, except:

- 1 (i) amounts fixed by state or federal law;
- 2 (ii) amounts for the Fire Department established by a board of arbitration and included in  
3 the proposed Ordinance of Estimates; **[and]**
- 4 (iii) amounts for the payment of the interest and principal of the municipal debt; **AND**
- 5 **(IV) AMOUNTS DEDICATED TO NON-LAPSING FUNDS BY ORDINANCE.**
- 6 **(b) Increases, ADDITIONS AND CONDITIONS [and additions.]**
- 7 (1) Except as provided in this subsection, the City Council does not have the power to  
8 increase the amounts fixed by the Board or to add any amount for any new purpose in the  
9 proposed Ordinance of Estimates.
- 10 (2)(i) By a majority vote of its members, the City Council may increase items of  
11 appropriation within the general fund or add items within the general fund for new purposes  
12 provided that:
- 13 (A) the aggregate amount of the increase does not exceed the aggregate amount by which  
14 the City Council has reduced or eliminated from the Ordinance of Estimates  
15 under [subsection \(a\) of this section](#);
- 16 (B) the increases authorized by this subsection do not derive from the reduction or  
17 elimination of revenue, which by law, contract, or regulation must be used to support  
18 appropriations for specific purposes; and
- 19 (C) an item added for a new purpose is or will be authorized by legislation separate and  
20 apart from the Ordinance of Estimates.
- 21 (ii) In no event, however, may:
- 22 (A) the total amount of the Operating Budget or the Capital Budget, as amended by the City  
23 Council, exceed the total amount of the Operating Budget or Capital Budget, respectively,  
24 as proposed by the Board of Estimates; or
- 25 (B) any increase or addition be made to or for any item described in subsection (a)(2)(i), (ii),  
26 or (iii) of [this section](#).
- 27 (3) **[**If the carrying out of a particular program, purpose, activity, or project depends on  
28 action by a body other than the City, the City Council may insert a specific provision in the  
29 proposed Ordinance of Estimates making the appropriation for the particular program,  
30 purpose, activity, or project contingent on that action.**]**

1 THE CITY COUNCIL MAY INSERT A SPECIFIC PROVISION IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE  
2 OF ESTIMATES MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A PARTICULAR PROGRAM, PURPOSE,  
3 ACTIVITY, OR PROJECT CONTINGENT ON CERTAIN ACTION.

4 (c) **Revenue ordinances.**

5 As soon as practicable after the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates, the City Council  
6 shall enact such revenue ordinances as are necessary to produce sufficient expected  
7 revenues, as estimated by the Board of Estimates, to cover the total anticipated  
8 expenditures authorized by the Ordinance of Estimates. The Council may adopt revenue  
9 sources or revenue rates other than those proposed by the Board and in each such  
10 instance the estimate of the revenue to be yielded by such a source or rate shall be made  
11 by the Board of Estimates.

12 The Board of Estimates shall, taking into account any reductions and eliminations made by  
13 the City Council in the anticipated expenditures contained in the proposed Ordinance of  
14 Estimates and the revenues to be derived from all existing sources and from any new  
15 sources or new rates enacted by the City Council, certify to the Council the difference  
16 between the anticipated expenditures for the next fiscal year contained in the Ordinance of  
17 Estimates and all expected revenues other than from the full rate property tax. The Board  
18 shall then state a rate for the levy of full rate property taxes sufficient to realize the amount  
19 required to meet the said difference and the ordinance making the annual levy of full rate  
20 property taxes shall fix a rate not less than that stated by the Board so that it shall not be  
21 necessary at any time for the City to create a floating debt to meet any deficiency, and it  
22 shall not be lawful for the City to create a floating debt for any such purpose.

23

24 **§ 8. Deficiencies; Supplementary appropriations.**

25 (a) **Deficiencies.**

26 No temporary loan shall be authorized or made to pay any deficiency arising from a failure  
27 to realize sufficient income from all sources to meet the amounts provided in the  
28 Ordinance of Estimates, but the City may temporarily borrow money for its use in  
29 anticipation of the receipts of taxes levied for any year. In case of any such deficiency the  
30 Board of Estimates shall effect reductions (which need not be pro rata) in appropriations  
31 other than those for the payment of the principal and interest of the City debt and such  
32 amounts as are fixed by law and contained in the Ordinance of Estimates, except to the  
33 extent that the City Council shall, upon the recommendation of the Board of Estimates,  
34 enact an ordinance which shall supply revenues to meet all or any part of such deficiency.

1 No emergency loan shall be made except in accordance with the provisions of [Article XI of](#)  
2 [the Constitution of Maryland](#).

3 **(b) Supplementary appropriations — when authorized.**

4 (1) Except as provided herein, the Ordinance of Estimates shall include all the moneys to  
5 be appropriated by the City for all purposes for the fiscal year for which the ordinance is  
6 applicable.

7 (2) Additional appropriations are permitted during the fiscal year only in the following  
8 circumstances and under the following conditions:

9 **(i) Excess revenues.**

10 Revenues from any source other than the full rate property tax and other taxes imposed  
11 under the authority of [Article II](#), in excess of or in addition to those relied on by the Board of  
12 Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget, may be made  
13 available for expenditure by the municipal agency responsible for the production of those  
14 revenues by a supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the City Council  
15 by the Board of Estimates, duly passed by the City Council by a majority vote of its  
16 members and approved by the Mayor.

17 **(ii) Unanticipated grants.**

18 Grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable  
19 certainty at the time of the formulation of the proposed Ordinance of Estimates may be  
20 made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure by a supplementary  
21 appropriation ordinance recommended to the City Council by the Board of Estimates, duly  
22 passed by the City Council by a majority vote of its members and approved by the Mayor.

23 **(iii) Material changes; new programs.**

24 Further appropriations for programs included in the proposed Ordinance of Estimates  
25 made necessary by a material change in circumstances, or additional appropriations for  
26 new programs that could not reasonably be anticipated at the time of the formulation of  
27 the proposed Ordinance of Estimates may be made available to the appropriate municipal  
28 agency for expenditure by a supplementary appropriation ordinance recommended to the  
29 City Council by the Board of Estimates, duly passed by the City Council by a vote of three-  
30 fourths of its members and approved by the Mayor.

31 **(c) Supplementary appropriations – Requisites of ordinance.**

32 Every such further or additional appropriation shall be embodied in a separate ordinance  
33 limited to a single program, purpose, activity or project therein stated, and each such

1 supplementary appropriation ordinance shall also, anything contained in the Charter to the  
2 contrary notwithstanding, provide the revenue necessary to pay the appropriation by a  
3 source, other than the full rate property tax, imposed under the authority of [Article II](#). The  
4 revenue shall be levied and collected as directed in the ordinance. The estimate of the  
5 revenues to be derived from any source proposed in a supplementary appropriation  
6 ordinance shall be made by the Board of Estimates.

7

8 **§ 9. Uses of appropriations.**

9 (a) **In general.**

10 Following the passage of the Ordinance of Estimates and the enactment of the revenue  
11 measures necessary to achieve a balance between expected revenues and anticipated  
12 expenditures for the next fiscal year, **EXCEPT AS MAY BE CONDITIONAL UNDER § 7(B)(3) OF**  
13 **THIS ARTICLE**, the sums contained in the Ordinance of Estimates shall, after the beginning  
14 of the fiscal year to which it is applicable, be and become appropriated for the purposes  
15 therein named.

16 No appropriation provided for in the Ordinance of Estimates shall be used for any purpose  
17 other than that named in that ordinance, except:

18 (1) the Board of Estimates may increase the amount for a particular program, purpose,  
19 activity, or project or introduce an amount for a new program, purpose, activity or project by  
20 transferring thereto amounts already appropriated to that agency; and

21 (2) upon the recommendation of the Board of Estimates, the City Council by ordinance may  
22 authorize the transfer of an appropriation contained in the Ordinance of Estimates from  
23 one municipal agency to another municipal agency;

24 provided, however, that new or different amounts for capital projects from those stated in  
25 the capital budget portion of the Ordinance of Estimates shall not be authorized unless the  
26 Board of Estimates has received and considered the reports and recommendations  
27 thereon of the Planning Commission and the Director of Finance.

28 (b) **Expenditure schedule.**

29 Upon the authorization of the Board of Estimates and under procedures established by the  
30 Board, the Director of Finance shall establish an expenditure schedule, applicable to any or  
31 all municipal agencies whenever, in the opinion of the Board, financial conditions warrant  
32 such budgetary allotments.

33 (c) **Carry-overs; Lapses.**

1 (1) Appropriations contained in the Ordinance of Estimates for a particular program,  
2 purpose, activity, or project may, upon the recommendation of the head of the municipal  
3 agency concerned and the Director of Finance, and with the approval of the Board of  
4 Estimates, be carried over to fiscal years subsequent to the one for which the appropriation  
5 is initially made if necessary to accomplish that program, purpose, activity, or project.

6 (2) Funds encumbered for contracts, projects or other actual commitments and funds  
7 dedicated by any act of Congress or by State law or by the terms of any private grant to  
8 some specific purpose shall be carried over to the next fiscal year.

9 (3) All appropriations not so carried over shall lapse at the end of the fiscal year from which  
10 made, except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

11 (4) Any balance remaining in the fund of the water, sanitary wastewater, [or] stormwater  
12 utility (under [Section 18 of this article](#)), OR DEDICATED TO ANY OTHER NONLAPSING  
13 FUND BY ORDINANCE at the end of the fiscal year shall remain to the credit of that utility  
14 and an estimate of that balance shall be included in that [utility's] FUND'S budget for the  
15 next year as an estimated receipt.

16 (d) **Surpluses.**

17 (1) In case of any surplus arising in any fiscal year by reason of an excess of revenue over  
18 the expenditures (including any appropriation carried over) for that year, the surplus shall  
19 become a part of the general revenue of the City, EXCEPT IN THE INSTANCES OF  
20 SURPLUSES OCCURRING IN NONLAPSING FUNDS BY ORDINANCE and shall be available  
21 for the general expenditures of the City for the next fiscal year, in accordance with the  
22 Ordinance of Estimates for that year. An estimate of the surplus shall be made by the Board  
23 of Estimates and included in expected revenues for the next year.

24 (2) However, any surplus or retained earnings of the water, sanitary wastewater, or  
25 stormwater utility fund (under [§ 18 of this article](#)) at the end of the fiscal year shall remain  
26 to the credit of that utility and the estimate of that balance shall be included in that utility's  
27 budget for the next year as an estimated receipt.

28

29 **§ 10. Salaries.**

30 **[(a)] In-term increases or decreases — in general.**

31 **(1)** In preparing the Ordinance of Estimates, the Board of Estimates may increase or  
32 decrease the salaries of all municipal officers, except:

33 [(i)] (1) the elected officials subject to [Article VII](#), §§ [117](#) through [125](#) of this Charter; and

1 [(ii)] (2) the appointed municipal officers who serve as members of the Board of Estimates.

2

3 {Can everything below this be removed?}

4

5 [(2) If the salary of an appointed municipal officer is so increased or decreased, it may not  
6 again be increased or decreased, as the case may be, during that officer's term.]

7 (b) **In-term increases or decreases — Board members.**

8 (1) The Mayor and City Council may, by ordinance, increase or decrease the salaries of the  
9 appointed municipal officers who serve as members of the Board of Estimates.

10 [(2) If the salary of an appointed municipal officer on the Board is so increased or  
11 decreased, it may not again be increased or decreased, as the case may be, during that  
12 officer's term.

13 (c) **Employment contingent on appropriation.**

14 No person shall be appointed or employed as a paid municipal officer or employee unless  
15 an appropriation to cover that person's compensation is included in the Ordinance of  
16 Estimates;

17 provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to:

18 (1) appointments or employments approved by resolution of the Board of Estimates, where  
19 funds are available for payment of the designated compensation; and

20 (2) persons whose appointment or employment is to be made and whose compensation is  
21 to be fixed by the Board of School Commissioners as provided in [Section 63 of Article VII](#).

22 (d) **Increases beyond Ordinance of Estimates.**

23 Except in cases of promotion, the salary or compensation of no officer or employee of the  
24 City shall be increased beyond that set forth in the materials accompanying the proposed  
25 Ordinance of Estimates unless the increase be approved by the Board of Estimates upon  
26 the recommendation of the head of the agency concerned, and funds therefor are available  
27 in the appropriation allotted in the Ordinance of Estimates to the agency in question;

28 provided, however, that the Board of Estimates may adopt rules and regulations governing  
29 increments to be granted to employees whose classifications call for an annual increment  
30 until the maximum of such classification is reached;

1 provided, further, that nothing in this provision shall affect the power conferred  
2 by [Section 63 of Article VII](#) upon the Board of School Commissioners.

3 (e) **Payment intervals.**

4 The salaries of all municipal officers and employees, whether or not fixed by the Charter,  
5 shall be paid at such intervals, but not less frequently than semi-monthly, as the Board of  
6 Estimates may determine from time to time.]

7

8

9 Section 2.

10 Article VI, § 3-18 are repealed

11

12 Section 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this proposed amendment to the City  
13 Charter be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Baltimore City, for adoption or  
14 rejection, in accordance with Article XI-A, § 5 of the Maryland Constitution, in the form  
15 specified by the City Solicitor.

16

17 Section 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That each subtitle repealed by Section 2 shall  
18 continue to have effect until the sooner of the next General Election conducted in  
19 Baltimore City after passage of this resolution, or passage of an ordinance to carry out,  
20 reassign, amend or repeal its purpose, either by inclusion in or omission from the City Code  
21 or regulation.